

I believe that the FCC's proposed "BPL", broadband internet over the existing electric power grid, is a serious mistake. The effect of such a service on reception of radio signals in the standard AM broadcast band, the shortwave broadcast bands, and even television channels 2 thru 5 (assuming utilization of frequencies up to 80 MHz) would be catastrophic. Have there been any proposals to protect these services (and all the others within the proposed frequency range) from the massive interference which will result? Will reception within this frequency range be limited to signal intensities greater than 500 microvolts per meter? What about the people who wish to listen to weak AM broadcast or shortwave broadcast stations. How will the amateur radio bands be affected, and how will this affect emergency communications during times of natural disaster? If the amateur radio bands are unusable for hobby purposes, will licensed hams maintain their stations if they can only be used during emergencies? I don't think so. There are other technically superior alternatives to the BPL proposal, but they would require more of an investment in infrastructure by the broadband internet companies. Obviously, these companies would prefer to utilize existing infrastructure (the electric power grid) to distribute their service, concentrating on maximizing their profit potential without regard to the consequences that their service will have on other users of the electromagnetic spectrum. I believe that the public interest would be best served by denying the BPL proposal.

Sincerely,
Mr. Dennis B. Herbuth